

Worksession

Agenda Item #	9
Meeting Date	March 19, 2007
Prepared By	Suzanne Ludlow, Community & Government Liaison
Approved By	Barbara B. Matthews, City Manager

Discussion Item	Legislative Report
Background	<p>With approximately three weeks left in the Legislative Session, decisions are beginning to be made. There is a lot of good news!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Preemption of Rent Control Bill, which was to have been heard on Wednesday, March 21, is being withdrawn. There will likely be an effort to study the issue over the summer, so we may have a more serious battle on this topic next year. • The Street Lighting Bill was adopted by both houses and made effective as of June 1, rather than the normal July 1 or October 1 dates. • The Condo Conversion Notice Requirements Bill was adopted. • The Senate has passed the Mercury Switch Removal Bill. We are waiting to see if the House will approve it as well. <p>On Saturday, March 10, presentations on the Community Center bond bill request were made. The presentations were very well received, but we are not assured of receiving any money.</p> <p>Staff plans to submit testimony supporting SB 130 / HB 611, which raises the amount of the State payment per police officer and builds in an inflation adjustment for the future. The bill is to be heard in the House on Monday, March 19.</p>
Policy	The City Council works to obtain legislation in the interests of the City of Takoma Park.
Fiscal Impact	Can be substantial, either positively or negatively, depending on the proposed legislation.
Attachments	Legislative Status Report of March 15, 2007
Recommendation	Receive information; provide direction.
Special Consideration	

LEGISLATIVE STATUS REPORT
As of March 15, 2007

BILL NUMBER	TITLE	DESCRIPTION	CITY POSITION	HEARING DATE (Time is 1 pm unless otherwise indicated)
Impact on Municipal Finances				
SB 521 HB 414	Admissions and Amusement Tax - Food and Beverages	Would allow a municipality to impose this tax on food and beverage sales at a location that is eligible for this tax.	Support as enabling legislation.	SB 521: hearing held HB 414: hearing held
HB 716	Local Property Tax - Credit for Individuals at Least 65 Years Old	Would allow a county or municipality to provide a tax credit for people 65+ years old.	Support as enabling legislation.	HB 716: hearing held
SB 589 HB 900	First Responders Fund -WITHDRAWN-	Establishes fund for grants to counties and municipalities to pay for equipment and personnel for fire, rescue, and emergency medical services entities and local law enforcement agencies.	Support as municipal funding source.	-WITHDRAWN-
SB 591 HB 523	Municipal Corporations - Building Excise Tax	Authorizes municipalities to impose a building excise tax on all types of building construction. Such tax is prohibited if there is an impact fee.	Support as enabling legislation.	SB 591: hearing held HB 523: hearing held

SB 423 HB 875	Local Government - Street Lighting Equipment	Authorizes a local government to purchase street lighting equipment from an electric company.	Support.	ADOPTED
SB 130 HB 611	Public Safety - State Aid for Police Protection Fund - Municipal Sworn Officer Allocation	Increases payment to municipality to \$2400 per officer and allows for annual inflation adjustment	Support.	SB 130: hearing held HB 611: March 19
Takoma Park Community Learning Center				
SB 250 HB 301	Creation of a State Debt - Montgomery County - Takoma Park Community Learning Center	\$3 million bond bill (requiring equal match) for Community Center	Support.	SB 250: hearing held HB 301: hearing held
Housing				
SB 644 HB 486	Maryland Affordable Housing Investment Fund	Establishes a fund for affordable housing initiatives; is supported by a 2 cent property tax increase; allows counties and certain municipalities to use the funds for certain housing programs	Dist 20 reps have requested our amendment to remove requirement that only municipalities with a population of 35,000 or more may apply to use the funds. Key House sponsor agreeable, but says bill not likely to survive due to provision raising taxes.	SB 644: hearing held HB 486: hearing held

SB 710 HB 784	Affordable Housing - Enabling Authority for Counties and Municipalities	Authorizes counties and municipalities to take specified actions to support, foster, or promote an affordable housing program for persons of low or moderate income.	Support as enabling legislation.	SB 710: hearing held HB 784: hearing held
SB 641 HB 96	Condominiums - Conversion of Rental Facilities - Extended Leases - Property Tax Credit	Authorizes five year (rather than three year) extended leases for “designated” households and allow counties and municipalities to provide a tax credit to the owner for extended leases	Support.	SB 641: hearing held HB 96: hearing held
SB 635 HB 95	Condominiums - Conversion of Rental Facilities - Notice Requirements	Ensures that residents have a full 180 day period to consider the purchase price of the unit when notified that a building is being converted to condominiums.	Support	ADOPTED
HB 1148	Rent Control - Local Government Preemption	States that a local government may not enact, maintain, or enforce a law, ordinance or regulation that controls rent on private residential or commercial property.	Oppose due to curtailment of enabling rights. (Sponsor plans to offer amendment to exempt current rent control programs.)	HB 1148: March 21
Environment				

SB 34 HB 5 HB 676	Electric Industry - Local Aggregation	Allow municipalities to operate as aggregators of electricity on behalf of their residents. Note: HB5 is a very simple version of the bill. SB 34 and HB 676 are companion bills.	Support.	SB 34 - hearing held HB 5: hearing held HB 676: hearing held
SB 366 HB 418	Mercury Switch Removal from Vehicles	Requires motor vehicle manufacturers to develop a mercury minimization plan and requires them to pay the costs of removing mercury switches.	Support.	SB 366: hearing held HB 418: hearing held SENATE BILL ADOPTED
HB 47	Motor Fuel Tax - Exemption for Biodiesel Fuel - Government Vehicles	Allows a reduction in State tax on the purchase of biodiesel fuel for use in government vehicles.	Support. (Note: all our large public works vehicles use biodiesel fuel.)	HB 47: hearing held
Eminent Domain				
HB 257	Property Protection Act of 2007	Constitutional Amendment to prohibit acquiring private property via condemnation to carry out projects for urban renewal, comm. revitalization, attracting or retaining businesses, job creation, or generating tax revenue.	Oppose.	HB 257: hearing held
HB 842	Real Property - Eminent Domain - Limitations on Condemnation Authority	Constitutional Amendment similar to HB 257, but clearly allowing the taking of private property to prevent an emergency.	Oppose.	HB 842: hearing held

Death Penalty				
SB 211 HB 225	Criminal Law - Death Penalty - Repeal	Repeals use of death penalty in Maryland.	Support.	SB 211: hearing held HB 225: hearing held
Marriage Law				
SB 564	Valid Marriages	Constitution Amendment that states that only a marriage between a man and a woman is a valid marriage in Maryland.	Oppose.	SB 564: hearing held